February 1, 2025

Straw Purchases of Firearms

A straw purchase of firearms occurs when someone buys a gun on behalf of another person who may not be legally eligible to purchase one themselves. This practice is illegal and is often used to circumvent background checks and other legal requirements. The person making the purchase (the "straw buyer") typically provides false information on the purchase forms, claiming that they are the actual buyer when, in reality, they are buying the firearm for someone else.

Straw purchases are a significant concern because they can lead to firearms ending up in the hands of individuals who are prohibited from owning them, such as convicted felons, minors, or individuals with a history of mental illness. This can contribute to gun violence and other criminal activities.